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20 July 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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***USSR:** The tone of Khrushchev's 19 July Moscow speech suggests that he expects the tripartite talks to reach an early agreement on a limited nuclear test ban.

The Soviet premier seemed to treat an agreement virtually as an accomplished fact by expressing the hope that it will be "useful" in improving the international atmosphere. He also claimed that it would demonstrate the validity of his policy of peaceful co-existence.

Khrushchev did not indicate that an agreement banning tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater would be conditional on a moratorium on underground tests or on a NATO - Warsaw Pact nonaggression treaty. He simply stated that "we would like to hope" that the Moscow talks will produce agreement on a nonaggression pact and hinted at considerable flexibility on the precise formula for such an agreement.

Khrushchev apparently intends to use the current talks as a point of departure for further negotiations on a nonaggression pact and other proposals bearing on European security. He renewed previous Soviet proposals for reductions in military budgets and measures to prevent surprise attack. The only variant he suggested would provide for stationing Western representatives with Soviet forces in East Germany and Soviet representatives with Western forces in the Federal Republic.

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USSR--Industry: Soviet industrial production continues to expand at about the same rate as in recent years.

The midyear plan fulfillment report issued by the USSR Central Statistical Board on 18 July claims an 8.5-percent increase in production over a year ago--a figure in line with the somewhat lower rates of growth since 1960. Continuing problems of planning, resource scarcities, and supply difficulties are reflected in the reported increase of only 4 percent in state-planned investment compared with a 10-percent rise reported last year at this time.

The chemical industry apparently is maintaining its strengthened position in the economy. Its share of total investment has increased markedly over last year.

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India: (The cabinet has reneged on the Indian-US agreement signed earlier this month to build a combined VOA relay and All-India Radio (AIR) transmitter in Calcutta.)

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(AIR had planned to use the transmitter to expand anti-Chinese programming to Southeast Asia. The cabinet's 17 July decision to request renegotiation of the agreement results from anxiety about the impact that India's growing intimacy with the West is having on Indian independence.)

(The Indian left, strongly critical of the VOA-AIR agreement, now will be heartened to redouble its efforts to torpedo the Indian-US-UK agreement on air defense.)

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*Syria: The pro-Nasir character of the 18 July abortive coup has emerged more clearly as identification of the participants is established.

The coup group was heavily made up of pro-Nasir Palestinians and former followers of Nasir's Syrian viceroy, Abd al-Hamid al-Sarraj. The conspiracy appears to have been hastily arranged with no coordination with pro-Nasir elements in other parts of Syria, especially in their stronghold of Aleppo.

The Cairo press has attacked the Syrian regime. Egyptian newspapers today charge the Syrian Baaths with "massacres"--"an unprecedented campaign of terrorism."

The situation in Damascus is tense and sporadic shooting continued yesterday. However, the Baathist regime remains in control throughout the country. The summary execution of nearly a score of participants in the plot is indicative of the Baath's determination to crush all opposition. In the past, unsuccessful conspirators were either jailed or sent abroad.

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*Cuba: (Cuban crews may be preparing to conduct a firing exercise with the Komar guided missiles.)

(High-altitude photography [] discloses three Komars at sea near their base at Mariel and six tied up at the Mariel naval station. The remaining three Komars are out of the photography, presumably at sea. [] [] []

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*Bolivia: (General Rene Barrientos, commander of the Bolivian Air Force, told the US Air Attaché that President Victor Paz Estenssoro was prepared for a showdown with the striking, Communist-led miners in Catavi, the country's largest tin mine.)

(Barrientos, who, along with other principal military commanders, was summoned by Paz to a secret night session on 19 July, said that a state of siege probably would be declared soon. He also said that the Bolivian armed forces in La Paz are on alert

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British Guiana: (Premier Jagan and opposition leader Forbes Burnham, neither of whose parties is enthusiastic about forming a coalition government, appear to have suspended talks on the subject because Jagan has rejected Burnham's demand to lift the emergency regulations. Meanwhile, the renewal of jurisdictional labor disputes indicates that the Jagan regime is continuing its efforts to gain control over organized labor. These disputes have already touched off some minor disturbances.)

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Communist China - Cuba: (A Chinese Communist military delegation headed by General Liu Ya-lou, the highest-level Chinese to visit Cuba since 1960, has arrived in Havana for the 26 July Revolutionary Day celebrations. Peiping's motive in sending a person of Liu's stature--he is chief of the air force and a party central committee member--is unknown. Although China has been training some Cuban Air Force personnel, it is unable to provide Havana with significant military assistance.)

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Cuba-USSR: (Cuba will receive [redacted] Riga-class destroyer escorts and [redacted] sub-marine chasers by mid-1964, [redacted] These ships, added to the eleven subchasers and patrol escorts in the Cuban Navy, would greatly strengthen the island's defenses against small-scale attack.)

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Austria-Berlin: (The Austrian Government, in response to Allied and West German representations, will terminate on 27 July the authorization recently granted to East Germany's Interflug airline for weekly flights from East Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport to Vienna. The Austrians, however, have reserved the right to authorize unscheduled charter flights by East German aircraft between these points. In any event, Vienna's action apparently spells the end for the present to Austrian Airlines' efforts to establish regular service to Berlin.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Director of Intelligence and Research

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The Secretary of the Treasury

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The Secretary of the Army

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